



# Faith Adventures for Children Together



*Committed to URC Children Together:  
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus  
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:  
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

## Proverbs 30: 24-28

Theme: Small and wise – you don't have to be big and important to lead the way

### Contents:

<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Together</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Experience</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Explore</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Express</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Handouts</a> .....	9/10

### Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Proverbs was written mainly by Solomon, the wise king, along with some other contributors. It is called the Book of Wisdom as it offers advice and wise words from Solomon and other wise people. Although the book was written around 900 – 600 years before Jesus, it still holds lots of wisdom for us today.

Chapter 30 is a collection of sayings or thoughts from a man named Agur. We don't know much about him; but in this passage he uses creation to point us towards God. The word Proverb means 'to be like' and in this passage Agur looks at four small creatures and invites us to compare ourselves with them and to learn from their wisdom. Agur knew that we can maybe learn from creation a little about how God the creator wants us to live.

Children are often leading the way in being aware of the wonderful and fragile world that we live in and, as part of this series on Creationtide, this passage is a great reminder and encouragement to the very youngest, that though they are small, they are wise.

You might want to visit this Lundie story about two young children from Salisbury (Alice and Alex) who led the way in their church becoming more eco-friendly.

<https://youtu.be/ENdW8dw2hzQ>





# Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

## Gathering prayer

### Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

### Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

### As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

### Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

### Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

### And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

### As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

### AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

**Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.**

**Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.**

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,**

**Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

**Amen**

---

## In-person game

### What am I?

This game can be played indoors or out. You need one post-it note per participant. Write on the post-it notes the names of different creatures in God's creation – preferably all small things – and stick them onto the forehead of the players without them seeing what is written.

They then take it in turns to ask yes/no questions to help them guess what creature they are. The others have to answer honestly. If someone guesses incorrectly, you might choose to play it so that they are out of the game, or you may give them three chances to guess, depending on their age and ability to cope with being out. The first person to guess their creature wins, but keep playing until everyone has guessed.

If the group is a big one, split into smaller groups to play this game so that children do not have to wait too long until it is their turn again.



## Outdoor game

### Animal families

This game could also be played indoors. You need sets of three or four cards or pieces of paper (depending on your group size), each set having the same animal name on them. The animal names should be creatures that make a distinctive sound. Shuffle the cards/papers well and then give one to each participant.

When the leader shouts “Animal Families GO!” the players have to find the other players who have the same animal name, but they are not allowed to look at each others’ cards/papers or talk to each other, they are allowed only to make the sound that their animal makes and listen to find the others who are making the same noise.

## Experience

For this story we recommend using the International Children's Bible

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+30%3A+24-28&version=ICB>

### Where can I find the story online?

Under Fives: Four Wise little creatures by Aaronz Paradise [https://youtu.be/\\_NRpe0JW2-A](https://youtu.be/_NRpe0JW2-A)

Over Fives: A short Lectio Devina led meditation on Proverbs 30 v 24 – 28 by Wisdom and money [https://youtu.be/G6C\\_\\_hMbuwA](https://youtu.be/G6C__hMbuwA)

### Songs to support the story

Under Fives: I might be small, preschool worship by Kidmin <https://youtu.be/QCAoiVCDIqo>

Over Fives: Ant by Ian White <https://youtu.be/0WmrqY6ICmA>

## Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

### What can we learn from small things? What can the world learn from us too?

To explore the passage further, we will be doing some research for ourselves on minibeasts and thinking about how God has made them just right and what we can learn from them. Also we will be considering how God has made each of us, just right, for the things God has planned for us.

Ask the group what their favourite minibeasts are. You might like to have some pictures or plastic minibeasts to enable a full discussion together. What are your favourites and why?



In our Bible passage, a wise man named Agur is showing us four small creatures and asking us to consider what we can learn from them. This is a good place to revisit the passage and the four creatures mentioned.

The ant likes to be prepared, and store up food for winter: how can we be wise like the ant and be prepared?

The locust knows how to follow a leader and work as a team: how can we be wise like the locust?

The rock badger knows how important it is to have a safe home: how can we be wise like the rock badger?

The lizard doesn't let being small stop it from going places: how can we be wise like the lizard?

Ask: I wonder, if you were a minibeast, which one would you be like and why?

Let's take some time to research our favourite minibeasts. This can be done as a group or individually. Have resources available to enable children to do this e.g. encyclopaedias, computers, fact sheets, etc. The Woodland Trust offer some good facts

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/>

Let's find out a little about them and some fascinating facts and perhaps one thing that we can learn from them.

When the group are ready, give them an opportunity to share their findings and the wisdom that their chosen minibeast can give us.

### **Some other creative ways to explore minibeasts together:**

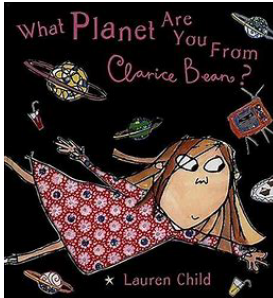
- Go on a minibeast hunt
- Have a go at creating your own out of junk or clay
- Sorting activity possibly for younger ones using plastic minibeasts or pictures; explore the different ways we can group them eg numbers of legs, ones that can/can't fly.....

**Final thoughts:** this is an opportunity to ask: what can we as the church, learn from you? How would you like to communicate it to the church?



## Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.



**'What Planet are you from Clarice Bean?'** By Lauren Child

Read by School of Mitchell

<https://youtu.be/tZsxfP4pQHw>

## Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

- Can you think of any other examples of creatures /or people who are small and wise?
- I wonder whether everything in God's creation has something to teach us?
- How can you share your wisdom with others, especially people who are "bigger" than you? What wisdom do you have to share?
- I wonder what you can do when people ignore you or don't listen to your wisdom?

## Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder which is your favourite minibeast and what is special about them?
- I wonder what creepy-crawly you could do without?

## What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). You could tap the top of the box twice after the word 'box'. Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

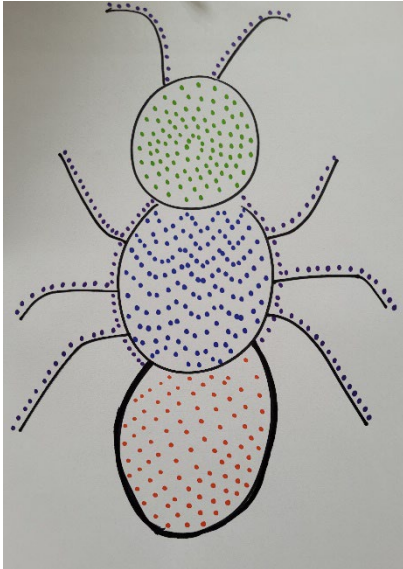
- Some play minibeasts – look at the minibeasts and explore how amazing they are, what amazing things they can do even though they are small
- Have images of an ant, locust, rock badger and a lizard – talk about how the locusts work together, ants get ready for hard times over the winter, the rock badger keeps out of danger, the lizard is small and still gets in to important places. Let's pretend to be like them, get the children to pretend to be locusts working together, ants getting ready, rock badgers keeping out of danger and lizards getting into important places
- An owl – sometimes Owls are referred to as wise, but even though we are small we are wise too
- Something small and something big – talk to the children about how even though they are small they are very important and have important thing to say to big people. What important things do we want to say to grown-ups today?
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc)



## Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

### Dot Art Prayers



You will need an ant outline (three ovals, six legs and two antennae) and a set of four coloured felt tips for each child in your group. Each child needs the same four colours. Alternatively you could use pots of paint and cotton buds.

Agree which colour represents which animal characteristic – Strength, Team-work, Resilience and Courage.

For each colour, allow the group time to trace the shape and fill the spaces with dots whilst praying for the agreed characteristic – either for themselves or another person.

Close with a short prayer or a shared 'Amen'.

*Play some relaxing worship music in the background or leave spaces of quiet, depending on what you think will help your group to focus.*

Why not try?

You could make a big piece of prayer art outside together. Draw three large ovals to represent an ant's body on big paper. Instead of using different coloured pens - use leaves, stones, sticks and pine cones to fill the shapes as you pray.

---

### Spoken prayer

Dear God,  
 For things that are unfair,  
 And things that seem too big to answer,  
 I'm asking for help.  
 My voice may be small -  
 But you are my God and you hear me!

For things that worry me,  
 And problems that seem too big to solve,  
 I'm asking for help.  
 My actions may be small -  
 But you are my God and you see me!

For things that make me cross,  
 In a world that seems too busy to notice,  
 I'm asking for help.  
 I may be small -  
 But you are my God and you know me! Amen



## Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond. <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

## Bug Hotel

### You will need

- old milk bottles
- sticks & twigs
- pine cones
- bark
- pieces of moss, leaves
- kitchen roll cores
- anything else you can find – bamboo with its holes makes a great hidey hole for insects and bugs!
- Basically any natural materials are great!



### What you do

Cut a hole in the milk bottle to create a space for your things to be placed.

If you wish you could decorate your hotel, with a sign saying “bug hotel: vacancies”.

Fill the bottle with all your bits: you can tie things into bundles to make it easier to position in the bottle.

Fill the gaps with leaves and moss.

Now place your hotel outside and see what bugs move in over the next few weeks.

## Bug Hunt

### What you need:

something to mark out a square e.g. 1 metre of string and cocktail sticks  
colouring pencils or pencils and paper  
magnifying glass for each child

### What you do:

Mark out a 25cm space on the ground, you can either use small sticks, chalk, or string for each child, try and place it in an interesting place.

On your hand and knees, inspect your space and mark down any things of interest – e.g., flower, insect, spider, woodlice, etc.



When you have finished, share with others what you have found. Compare how each of you had found different or the same things.

If you don't have a convenient outdoor space, go on a hunt around the room or hall you meet in and see what you can find – it might surprise you !

If you have access to a larger outdoor space – woods or beach – why not spend longer and have a walk together, looking for tiny creatures as you go. Remember not to disturb them and carefully to replace any logs or stones you move.

---

### Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- If you feel passionate about taking care of creation, how can you share your wisdom with adults this week? Maybe you could write to your local Member of Parliament – you can find who it is here: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>. Maybe you could encourage your church to become an ecochurch. Maybe you could make a poster or a video to share with others and give them some ideas of what they might do or why it is important.
  - Find out about some things you could do to make the world a safer place for some of the tiny creatures that are endangered, creatures such as bees and hedgehogs.
- 

We hope you enjoyed exploring **Proverbs 30** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk)

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **A New Heaven and New Earth** in **Revelation**.



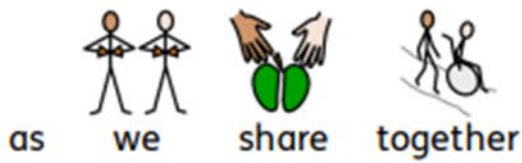




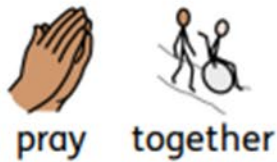
Jesus our friend,



be with us today



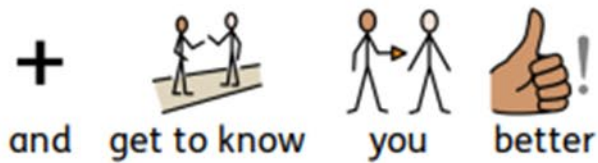
as we share together



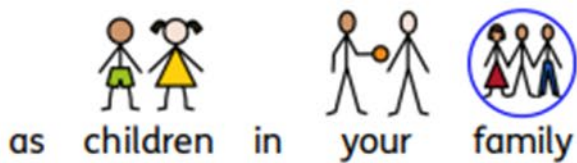
pray together



play together



and get to know you better



as children in your family



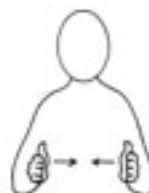
Amen



Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat with left hand



Alternate hands back and forth





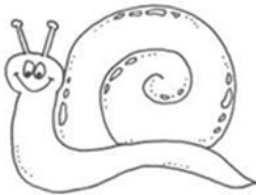
butterfly



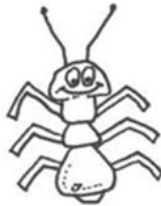
woodlouse



dragonfly



snail



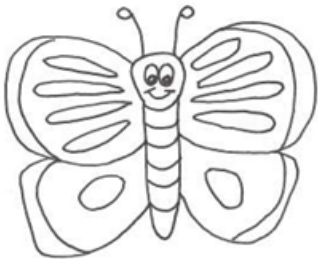
ant



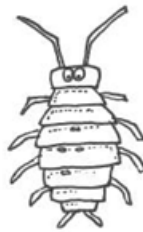
ladybird

[www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk](http://www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk)

Illustration from [kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk](http://kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk)



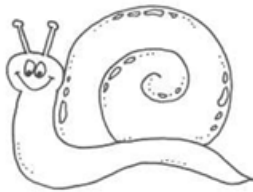
butterfly



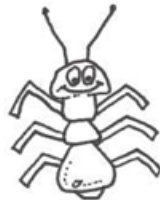
woodlouse



dragonfly



snail



ant



ladybird

[www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk](http://www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk)